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MUT

MANGOSUTHU
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

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A MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING VICE-CHANCELLOR



Professor Marcus Ramogale
Acting Vice-Chancellor & Principal
MUT

As I pen this message, I wish to acknowledge our first president in the democratic era, President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, who is celebrated internationally for his great leadership and his contribution to racial reconciliation – for which he and his deputy president, FW de Klerk, were co-awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993. One of his attributes was that he did not seek a second term, setting an example for other leaders on the continent. Another attribute that keeps his legacy alive is his passion for education, which has played a key role in the internationalisation of South Africa’s higher education sector.

Mandela is known for these powerful words in relation to education:

“ I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. ”

“ Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. ”

“ I dream of the realisation of the unity of Africa, whereby its leaders combine in their efforts to solve the problems of this continent. ”

These ideals underpin our Mission and Strategy as Mangosuthu University of Technology, and are a driving force in internationalising our University in order to open up opportunities for our staff, students and immediate communities.

Back in 2014, in its *Study SA: 20 Years of Internationalisation of South African Higher Education* publication, the International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA) acknowledged that “in the establishment and development of South African Higher Education Internationalisation, the role of Higher Education leadership, especially Vice-Chancellors of those Universities that developed the necessary capacity within their institutions, should...be recognised as critical role players in the systemic internationalisation of the institutions and the system”.

As we celebrate Mandela Month, I am happy to see MUT standing tall with world-class universities and organisations to forge partnerships that will add value to our teaching and learning and research; empower our staff; and create opportunities for student and staff exchanges. I was heartened when we visited one world-

class university, Sinclair College, Dayton, Ohio, and received this assurance: “Do not worry, we were where you are ten years ago. We will walk on this journey with you to be right where we are”.

During my brief sojourn in the United States of America (USA) in May this year, I experienced first-hand the importance of our students and staff becoming internationalised. A young man, Dr Rosny Jean, who had come to the USA from Haiti, was with my delegation throughout my visit at Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University. The gains he had made within a short space of time, and the way he was recognised by the executive and seniors around his university, reassured me that when we send our people to partner universities, they will benefit in the same way that he has. I also had a similar encounter with another young man, Benjamin Hofecker, who played a major role in my visit to Ohio. He is greatly recognised as an entrepreneur who has carved a niche area in agricultural entrepreneurship. Both these young men inspired me to use every means possible to accelerate student and staff exchanges. There are many more of these examples.



10 YEAR NELSON REMEMBRANCE MANDELA

the legacy lives on through you

A REFLECTION ON MY INTERNATIONALISATION VISIT TO THE USA

In May this year, I embarked on an ambitious journey to drive international recognition for MUT. The main rationale for my journey was to ensure that I carve a legacy for our University as an internationally recognised institution. An international reputation brings stature to any organisation and opens opportunities for research collaborations, student exchanges and funding opportunities. Internationalisation leverages one's capabilities to engage at global levels and to be listened to. It is my dream for everyone attached to MUT to have this perspective.


Great doors are opening for MUT, and I wish to acknowledge members of my delegation, Professor Nokuthula Sibiyi, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research Innovation & Engagements, and Mbali Mkhize, Senior Director: Marketing & Communications, who is also responsible for international relations. During my stay in the USA, I noted a few lessons that we need to focus on with all MUT staff and students. I noted a spirit of respect, hospitality, and great goodwill towards MUT.

In the global north, a university president is the pride of his or her university, community, corporations, and government, and so are his executive and faculty. This was a great eye-opener for my team and me. We are committed to reinvigorating these values for MUT.

Notably, higher education in the USA is central to the country's economic and military power. As a knowledge-based society, the USA takes its research very seriously as it informs innovation and its entrepreneurial prowess.

As MUT, we are finalising processes to welcome at least three more USA university partners before the end of the year. I am heartened that we are also expecting to sign new partnerships with various NPOs and corporations who should be able to contribute to our internationalisation agenda in the USA. These partnerships will assist us by opening many corporate doors for our students to be placed in summer programmes, provide opportunities for our academics to upscale their curriculum by being absorbed by industry, and work with the private sector to revitalise Umlazi Township through the establishment of innovation hubs. I look forward to embarking on this journey with you.

Professor Marcus M Ramogale
Acting Vice-Chancellor & Principal



From left, Dr Helene Gayle and Professor Marcus Ramogale



ACTING VICE- CHANCELLOR'S LANDMARK VISIT TO SOUTHEASTERN AND MIDWESTERN USA

Prof Marcus Ramogale's 10-day visit to the states of Florida, Georgia, and Ohio in May this year will go down in MUT's history as a turning point for a more targeted and intentional internationalisation agenda.

Internationalisation has been defined by De Wit et al. (2015) as "the intentional process of integrating an international, intercultural or global dimension into the purpose, functions, and delivery of post-secondary education, in order to enhance the quality of education and research for all students and staff, and to make a meaningful contribution to society."¹

That is exactly what Prof Ramogale set out for himself and the University to achieve. Initially, the visit was intended to formalise partnership agreements at Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU) in Tallahassee, Florida; Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia; and with Soil1 in Columbus, Ohio. However, long-term friendships built during a 23-year relationship with high-level executives in Tallahassee and Georgia resulted in new engagements and prospective partnerships with various schools within FAMU, including the colleges of Engineering, Agriculture, and the School of the Environment. The School of the Environment

at FAMU is spearheading an entrepreneurial oyster farming programme for MUT to consider, which would enable MUT researchers to contribute to blue economy research. MUT could have a competitive advantage of being a leader in oyster farming and blue economy research due to its proximity to the sea and the fact that most of the African community has not explored new diets that would strengthen food security.

In Atlanta, not only did MUT and Spelman College revisit their partnership agreement, but the engagement also enabled President-to-President discussions to streamline how both universities would take their collaboration forward. A spinoff of the visit to Atlanta was a meeting with a prospective new partner at Agnes Scott College, facilitated by former MUT partner, Dr Olivia Scriven at the Center for Global Learning.

Dr Graml, director at the Global Studies/Engagements at the college, introduced MUT to its first-year Global Journeys course. A partnership with Agnes Scott College will provide an opportunity for MUT to benchmark and collaborate on training focused on women and girls in the following areas:

- Self-management competencies: Tolerance of ambiguity, curiosity and resilience; and
- Relationship management competencies: Humility, resilience and perspective-taking.

This allows for MUT to identify any of its own qualifications that could include these electives for Agnes Scott College students to attend during the summer.

¹ de Wit, H., Hunter, F., Egron-Polak, E., & Howard, L. (Eds). (2015). Internationalisation of higher education: A study for the European parliament. [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/540370/IPOL_STU\(2015\)540370_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/540370/IPOL_STU(2015)540370_EN.pdf)

President Larry Robinson and Vice-Chancellor, Marcus Ramogale in front of the logo and MUT and FAMU colleagues



President Helene Gayle, fifth from left, and Vice-Chancellor Marcus Ramogale, next to her together with Spelman College and MUT staff

Another opportunity for MUT will be to partner with the Sophomore Class Atlanta Leadership Programme. There are prospects for MUT students to do a workplace-shadowing programme with the intention to equip them on:

- Task management competencies;
- Cultural adaptation;
- Cultural minimisation; and
- Cultural integration.

The delegation had the MUT Teaching and Learning Development Centre (TLDC) on its mind and made a few inquiries on teaching Collaborative Online International

Learning (COIL). As Agnes Scott College is far ahead with COIL, a partnership agreement would allow both universities to develop an international leadership development component within their qualifications, focusing on culture and development, race and social justice. Given that the course will address power differences, this will be good for MUT whose Senate 2018 Statement strongly condemns Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

MUT thus can address global learning so that the global lens can be applied throughout all its programme delivery.

SUCCESSFUL ALLIANCES AT THE HEART OF EFFECTIVE STAKEHOLDER STEWARDSHIP



From left: President Larry Robinson, Mbali Mkhize, Dr Victor Ibeanusi

It is not by sheer luck that MUT is making great strides in the USA. Rather, it is the result of a few factors that make alliances succeed and grow. Mbali Mkhize, Senior Director: Marketing and Communications at MUT, reflects that:

In stakeholder relations management, particularly at a global level, you deal with individuals who bring different histories, values, and cultures. It is therefore important that you understand these and create a mind plan on how each stakeholder will be valued. I learnt this 23 years ago at a presentation we made in Washington, DC with Dr Olivia Scriven, with whom I have built a close relationship, even beyond the first collaborative partnership we had then. In her presentation, to an audience of more than 200 delegates from 23 historically disadvantaged higher education institutions in South Africa, she said, 'For a successful partnership, know your partner'. Today, that statement still comes back to me each time we sign new MoUs. Stewarding partnerships is in my blood and veins. Partnerships must be symbiotic and sustainable. I wish to pay tribute to long-term friends of MUT who are now holding positions of power at USA universities.

Dr Larry Robinson, President of Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University, has contributed immensely to the personal and professional growth of many at MUT. Between 2000 and 2006, he mentored a few MUT faculty members who have in turn made huge contributions to MUT. These include Xolile Ngubane, now acting director in MUT's Technology Station in Chemicals (TSC); Thabani Mkhize, who was a laboratory technician and is now a lecturer in the Department of Analytical Chemistry; and Dr Archie Buthelezi. Others have since left the University and are making an impact in academia and business. Dr Robinson has always made the experience of all those that visited the USA more than just professional, extending his home and even his vacations to include MUT delegates. Today, MUT continues to benefit from this relationship.

Dr Victor Ibeanusi has also remained a friend of MUT since 2000, with intermittent visits to MUT as part of various capacity-building programmes with the University. His flagship programme with MUT has been

his famous EnergyWaterFood Nexus Summit which has played a vital role in MUT's research priority area on the environment. As promised by Professor Nokuthula Sibiyi during the visit to the USA, next year's EnergyWaterFood Nexus Summit will include many papers from MUT.

Dr Olivia Scriven is a friend and mentor who has played a major role in capacity-building initiatives (most of them pro bono) in the areas of marketing, communications, and the internationalisation of MUT. These include a long-standing role in MUT's annual Empowered Administrators Conference. During MUT's visit to the USA, she was instrumental in bringing a new partner to the Vice-Chancellor's delegation as well as deepening thoughts on further avenues for MUT to pursue.

Kudos to MUT for its sustainable stakeholder stewardship that has produced long-standing friendships, partnerships and mentorships with USA universities, industry and non-profit organisations.



From left: Mbali Mkhize, Dr Olivia Scriven and Prof Nokuthula Sibiyi

NEW MUT PARTNER OPENS DOORS FOR MUT IN THE USA MIDWEST

From the beginning, Dr Terry Hofecker, CEO of Demeter in Ohio, USA, has taken it upon himself to open doors for MUT. His invitation to Prof Marcus Ramogale – about whom he had heard from Mballi Mkhize – touched the Acting Vice-Chancellor’s heart and made him decide to include a visit to Ohio.

Dr Hofecker wrote:

“During your visit, you will not only be visiting universities, but also entrepreneurial entities attached either through universities and/or government or corporations. It is very important that you understand the unique entrepreneurial entities you will be seeing. The possibilities to empower MUT as a centre of tech start-up and to support students as tech entrepreneurs will be optimised if we can create what is called a Startup Ecosystem in Durban.

We are very fortunate that in the short time you will be here, you will see three different Startup Ecosystems, two of them in some depth. We have already begun conversations with two startups in Durban and two in the [USA] who will commit to participating if we decide to build one together in Durban. You will see a Startup Ecosystem in Columbus centred around the Ohio State University (OSU). In Dayton, you will see one based around several universities including Sinclair College. On our visit to Piketon, you will briefly see a rural example, also affiliated with OSU.

So, as you see these extremely well-developed systems, please begin thinking of how we might get started on a smaller scale in Durban, hopefully with MUT. “

Within two days, MUT had been exposed to knowledge on how it could broaden its research in fields never previously thought of and in entrepreneurship programmes never imagined. These programmes are at Ohio State University Agricultural Research Institute; Sinclair College, Dayton, Ohio; Ohio Life Sciences; Soil1 in Columbus, Ohio; and Innovation Centres in Columbus



Front Row: Prof Nokuthula Sibiyi, Dr Rafia Islam, Dr Thomas Worley at the OSU with OSU School of the Environment of Natural Resources.

For the Acting Vice-Chancellor and his delegation, the hard work begins now as the team needs to assign leadership for various operational plans that will be developed with each institution. “Everyone will have a role to play in the internationalisation agenda of the University and no one should be left behind,” said Prof Ramogale as he summed up the entire global engagement. “I am grateful to Dr Hofecker for the insightful engagements, and we will be firming up some of these engagements through signing MoUs in due course.”

DR BONGINKOSI MTHEMBU SPEARHEADS AN ENTREPRENEURIAL CONNECTION IN OHIO



Dr Bonginkosi Mthembu

A meeting with Dr Terry Hofecker and Dr Bonginkosi Mthembu, head of MUT's Department of Community Extension, has opened new doors for MUT.

Dr Hofecker and his son Ben, CEO of Soil1 (a soil health company in Ohio), were contacted by Dr Mthembu about ways to spur on regenerative agriculture efforts and entrepreneurship in the communities surrounding MUT. In March 2023 Dr Hofecker (senior) was able to meet Dr Mthembu in person in Durban, and the latter created such a good impression that Ben Hofecker has since described Dr Mthembu as possessing "the three Cs of

leadership": competence, commitment, and character. Based on this, Soil1 was keen to partner with MUT through Dr Mthembu.

Commenting on the relationship, Mbali Mkhize said:

It is through people like Dr Mthembu that our brand is seen positively by stakeholders, and in this instance, international stakeholders. As a result of Dr Mthembu being a brand touchpoint, the University's eminence in the global space multiplied. The delegation went to Ohio to sign one MoU but came back with a possibility of signing over five MoUs with various institutes and universities. The role played by the Acting Vice-Chancellor and his delegation cannot be overstated, although without a brand champion in the form of Dr Mthembu, this could not have taken place. Praise to Dr Mthembu and many others working for the good of the University. Just as John F. Kennedy in his inaugural address said, 'Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country'. The University's call to action is: 'How best could staff become MUT ambassadors both nationally and internationally, without asking what the University can do for them?'

FORESIGHT SPURS EXPONENTIAL GROWTH IN MUT PARTNERSHIPS

Kudos to the Acting Vice-Chancellor for his foresight in establishing an international office at MUT. “Sometimes, you just need to identify talent and willpower, to make your vision a success,” says Prof Marcus Ramogale as he looks with pride at the vision that is unfolding before his eyes. The Acting Vice-Chancellor has also introduced a new format of reporting on internationalisation so that the international ecosystem MUT is building will be sustainable.

The fact that the University did not have an international relations department to begin with, did not deter the Acting Vice-Chancellor from having his vision realised. Today, MUT has 20 active partnerships, including two with South African universities, and two with unique corporations. It has an international presence across three states in the USA, India, Thailand, France, Sweden, the UK, Germany, as well as five African countries. For the first time this year, the University heightened its engagement in India when it formalised its collaborative agreement with Bharathiar University. It is also planning to sign MoUs with Universitas Negeri Manado in Thailand and Dayananda Sagar University in Bangaluri, India, before the end of the third quarter.



Professor Marcus Ramogale

Delegates that attended the SASUF Conference at the University of the Western Cape





CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE LAUNCHED AT MUT



Petra Kruger and Dr Olu Ajayi

MUT has embarked on a climate change and air pollution research project with two German partners, GIS GmbH and efa Leipzig GmbH, and local partner Siyacanda Energy corporation. MUT will be the research repository; Siyacanda Energy and efa Leipzig will be responsible for the provision of material and connecting MUT with case sites; and GIZ is contributing funding which will be used for the establishment of a climate change mitigation centre at MUT. The centre was officially launched on 19 May 2023. The MUT executive – represented by Dr Johan Van Koller during Prof Ramogale’s trip to the USA – welcomed the GIZ GmbH team (represented by Dr Hebnner and Dr Wolfgang Jockel), the efa Leipzig GmbH team (represented by Petra Krueger) and the Siyacanda team (represented by CEO Dr Olu Ajayi and CFO Dumezweni Mncwabe). All were instrumental in the founding of MUT’s Climate Change Centre, which has commenced business in full force.



MUT plans to introduce two undergraduate modules – one on climate change mitigation and one on air pollution – as part of its Engineering advanced diplomas, to produce graduates and researchers who will take the issue of climate change seriously. At the launch of the Climate Change Centre, Dr Jockel said, “The course content has already been developed for two modules and it includes theory and practical. The project has been introduced to and endorsed by the Department of Forestry and Fisheries. Coca-Cola is also one of the stakeholders that has also taken interest in this project.”

Speaking at the launch, Prof Babatunde Bakare, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, added that “we have already identified the first cohort of 14 students

to be trained, starting in June as an extra-curricular course. Training on climate protection and mitigation will enhance the Faculty of Engineering’s plan to develop new postgraduate programmes. We plan for all new postgraduate programmes to feature a module on environmental aspects that relate to air pollution and climate control and protection. The aim is to advance the Climate Change Project as the faculty grows. Building human capacity and training students will be central to what this centre is all about.

Acknowledging the milestone, Dr Manyane Makua, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Teaching & Learning, lauded the Climate Change Project and said the Centre could be a game changer for MUT. He said:

“ Dr Jockel, and our German partners, I want to tell you that through this project you have struck an important chord. For us as a University of Technology (UoT) it is a feather in our cap. Through the Centre, we are establishing ourselves in what we are good at. Before we expand our qualification mix, we need to excel in the areas we have identified as our strengths. This initiative will benefit students, the academic community, and the country will be enriched. ”

Climate Change launch attendees from Germany, Siyacanda GIZ and MUT



MUT AND SIYACANDA ENERGY COMMENCE CLASSES ON CLIMATE CHANGE



Dr Olu Ajayi, seated, left, with Professor Babatunde Bakare, seated, right, with students and staff at the meeting

Not allowing the Climate Change Centre to be a white elephant, both Prof Babatunde Bakare, Acting Dean in the Faculty of Engineering at MUT and Dr Olu Ajayi, Chief Executive Officer of Siyacanda Energy and one of the University's partners, have commenced inaugural presentations on climate change with engineering staff and students.

Dr Ajayi reminded the students that it was important for everyone to start thinking seriously about climate. His own interest in the phenomenon stems from its potential impact on the environment and our lives. He added that climate change had the potential to impact the economies of various countries, particularly in the developing world. "In Africa, our economy is not resilient to climate change," he said. For Dr Ajayi, one of the key

questions that many countries will have to contend with is how to meet economic growth objectives without damaging the environment. He said finding a balance was essential. He added that while Africa was not one of the heavy greenhouse producers, the continent was vulnerable because it was less prepared for climate change. Sub-Saharan Africa, explained Dr Ajayi, would be 2°C warmer by 2050, while West Africa would be wetter with more rainfall and floods.

Dr Ajayi added that the climate change project was important for answering the many questions that scientists were grappling with when it comes to the impact of climate change – including "How do we know what we don't know?"

GLOBAL PARTNERS COLLABORATE WITH MUT TO CELEBRATE “AFRICA 2063: THE AFRICA WE WANT”



Dr Godson Gatsha



As part of MUT’s Strategic Goal 4: Targeted National and International engagements, Africa Day plays a pivotal role in ensuring that MUT elevates African challenges and accomplishments. “To create a plan that resonates with everyone, it is noble that we sit across the table with our partners, prospective partners, and others who bring not only intellectual expertise, but also wide-ranging perspectives on Africa,” said Mbali Mkhize, MUT’s Senior Director: Marketing and Communications who is also championing its internationalisation agenda.

This year, seated at the table were teams from Botswana’s two universities – Botswana Open University, represented by Dr Godson Gatsha, a long-time stakeholder, and Botho University, represented by Prof Ivy-Rose Matthews. Also at the table were Frederick Chizu Simpungwe, CEO of National Institute of Namibia, and Dr Okyere Korankye, Rector of St Monica’s College of Education, (Ghana), the first male principal at the college since its establishment thirty years ago.

For MUT, the highlight of the Africa Day celebrations was the launch of the Women in Climate Change Mitigation Forum by Prof Nokuthula Sibiyi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation & Engagements. “Women are at the coalface of human survival. It makes a lot of sense for us to let the women lead this discourse at MUT, based on empirical research,” said Professor Sibiyi during the televised launch on the 1KZN channel.



MUT women that are sounding a warning about the effects of Climate Change, based on their knowledge

MUT LAUNCHES WOMEN IN CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION FORUM

The African Union’s “Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want”, has inspired the formation of the Women in Climate Change Mitigation Forum at MUT – an extension of the recently-launched Climate Change Mitigation Project. The multi-disciplinary forum of MUT women academics is led by Prof Nokuthula Sibiyi (Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation & Engagements) and includes Dr Thobeka Makhathini, senior lecturer in Chemical Engineering; Dr Xolile Mkhize, senior lecturer in Community Extension; Dr Bongiwé Mvuyana, acting HoD of Public Management; and Xolile Ngubane, acting director in the Technology Station in Chemicals. Their work and research focus on air pollution, food security, human settlements, and unemployment.

“As a collective of women in research, we believe that climate change has an impact on our research on food security and human settlements,” said Prof Sibiyi, who conceived of the Women in Climate Change Mitigation Forum as a thought-leadership forum aimed at enhancing knowledge on “how, as a collective, women can contribute to the Africa we want”.

The launch has attracted media attention and is expected to attract funders and partners who will enhance its impact. According to Prof Sibiyi, “We are telling our own story as women in research, and we are backed up by empirical evidence. I had the honour of being interviewed by CNBC Africa on this issue but because of flight delays, I ended up doing the interview over the phone. I am looking forward to raising this strength that we have identified. We are the first group to set up a Women in Climate Change Mitigation [forum] here in South Africa. We need more women to join this. Women have the voice and what is even greater, is that this voice is aligned to the global agenda and the African Union’s ‘Agenda 2063: The Africa we want’.”

The Women in Climate Change Mitigation Forum held round-table discussions aimed at solving problems such as pollution, hunger, disease, poor infrastructure, and unemployment and this was flighted on KZN’s TV Station, 1KZN.

MUT WOMEN RESEARCHERS SPEAK ON CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION



On the last day of Africa Month 2023, MUT's Women in Climate Change forum discussion premiered on 1KZN TV on DSTV channel 261, with women researchers sharing their views. Prof Nokuthula Sibiyi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagements, anchored the event. Here are a few excerpts from panel members' contributions to the discussion.



Prof Nokuthula Sibiyi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation & Engagements

“With South Africa’s national unemployment rate at 34.4%, followed by Namibia at 33.4%, Nigeria at 33.3%, and Angola taking the fifth spot at 31.6% (Statista, 2022), Africa is in trouble. Strengthening the small business sector and small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMMEs) will enable South Africa to increase the employment base for its large number of low-skilled unemployed citizens, and more so, to benefit rural and township areas. The drive to support SMMEs as key employers should be supported by a review of the South African labour laws and the extent to which they discourage small companies from engaging employees in meaningful full-time employment. The Post School Education and Training (PSET) sector, which incorporates TVET colleges and universities, has an important role to play in supporting SMMEs and innovators in the emerging ‘green economy’.”

Ms Xolile Ngubane,
Acting Director: Technology Station in Chemicals



“Africa is blessed with natural and mineral resources, but exploitation of these resources has led to extreme pollution of the environment. Population growth and urbanisation due to infrastructure developments have also contributed immensely to the current pollution in Africa. We are saying that Africa currently contributes less than 5% of global carbon emissions but it bears the brunt of the impact of climate change. Africa should participate in global efforts for climate change mitigation and should continue to speak with one voice and unity of purpose in advancing our position and interests on climate change. Africa should fast-track the implementation of the Climate Change Programme. The programme may include resilient agricultural development programmes, sustainable forest management programmes, and national adaptation plans.”

Dr Thobeka Makhathini, Senior Lecturer: Chemical Engineering



“There is a need to build resilient infrastructure which is inclusive and sustainable. Infrastructure development is a key driver for progress across the African continent and a critical enabler for productivity as well as sustainable economic growth. Infrastructure development contributes significantly to human development and poverty reduction. The need for adequate infrastructure is critical to secure energy, efficient transport, reliable communication systems, resilient sanitation, and affordable housing. The current urbanisation dynamics, if not controlled, could be a challenge to the development of the housing sector. Again, this could prevent the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11, which seeks to ensure access for all to adequate, safe, and affordable housing and basic services, and to upgrade informal settlements, as well as the achievement of the SDGs related to poverty and inequality.”

Dr Bongji Mvuyana, Acting HoD, Public Management



“Africa was never hungry in the past. We need to solve this before 2063 through political, socio-economic, agricultural and food policy reform, using centres of knowledge such as universities to promote indigenous knowledge and food, spearhead active engagement from communities in food production and local food systems, and get industry to become transparent on the costing of food, food quality, and its nutritional value. Finally, we need the family structure to create a new mindset in terms of food consumption patterns from infancy to the entire life cycle.”

Dr Xolile Mkhize, Senior Lecturer: Community Extension

THUMBS UP! YOU ARE C-RATED

A formal letter from South Africa's National Research Foundation (NRF) has confirmed that Prof Nokuthula (Noks) Sibiyi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation & Engagements, is now a C2 rated researcher. This follows a rigorous evaluation by her peers in her application for evaluation to become a rated researcher. "Based on the quality and the impact of your research outputs and the comments of the reviewers, you have been placed in the C category at level C2. The C category and C2 sub-category are defined as, "except for no more than a single reviewer raising some minor concerns, all other reviewers are firmly convinced that the applicant is an established researcher as described," said Joyce Olivier, Director: Reviews and Evaluation at the NRF.

The first person to congratulate Prof Sibiyi was Prof Marcus Ramogale, MUT's Acting Vice-Chancellor, who also received the letter as head of the institution. "Hearty congratulations, Prof Sibiyi. This is another feather in the cap for yourself and MUT. More power to your elbow!" he said. Asked what this attainment means for her and MUT, Prof Sibiyi said, "As the Executive responsible for Research, Innovation and Engagements, I believe in leading by example. I trust this accolade will inspire my fellow colleagues to do the same. We all need to join hands in moving MUT's research output to the next level and we do have the potential to lift the institution to greater heights."

Professor Sibiyi's rating will be valid for administrative purposes from 01 January 2023



Prof Nokuthula Sibiyi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation & Engagements



to 31 December 2028. "I am already working on moving to the next level on my research journey. As the custodian of research, innovation, and engagements, it is my responsibility to ensure that I stay on top of research, identify opportunities, and become more agile. My tenure here must reflect leading edge research and I do believe from the bottom of my heart that I came at the right time. As MUT researchers, we will make a difference to SA and the world through evidence-based research," she said.

RATED RESEARCHERS MADE TO FEEL GOOD AND APPRECIATED

Maya Angelou once said,

“ I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel. ”

This is the exact feeling experienced by MUT’s rated researchers at the ‘Thank you’ event hosted by Prof Sibiya on Thursday, 1 June 2023.

“ Today, I just want to express my sincere gratitude at the amount of time you have put in to ensure that you achieve new recognition in your research journey. This year, we have increased our excellence in research through your tireless work. You have five years in your current rating. You can never go back now. I am here today to thank you for advancing MUT’s vision and goals, so that we become a top university. I have a dream for MUT just as Martin Luther King said, ‘I have a dream.’ My dream is to exceed our previous years’ research output. I assure you, I am with you, and I will walk with you, ”

The rated researchers recognised were Prof Theophilus Davies, Dr Daveshan Naidoo, and of course Professor Sibiya herself whose mission is to lead research from the front.



Prof Theo Davies



Dr Daveshan Naidoo



Prof Nokuthula Sibiya

THE ROAD TO MAKING MUT AN ENTREPRENEURIAALLY MINDED UNIVERSITY

The adage by Ratan Tata, “If you want to walk fast, walk alone. But if you want to walk far, walk together,” cannot be truer for the path that MUT is taking in building its entrepreneurial focus from the ground up. Prof Marcus Ramogale’s vision for an “entrepreneurial university” is gaining traction with his deputy Vice-Chancellors, Prof Nokuthula Sibiyi (Research, Innovation, and Engagements) and Dr Manyane Makua (Teaching and Learning).

Both have joined the Vice-Chancellor’s call to produce graduates that become employers instead of employees. “We plan on developing an Entrepreneurship Centre whose objectives will focus on educating students on entrepreneurship across all faculties, creating student start-up clubs, encouraging collaborations and forming key partnerships with funders across the globe,” said Prof Sibiyi. The very fact that faculty deans will be involved shows an integrated approach from Teaching and Learning with Research, Innovation and Engagements. One cannot divorce innovation from entrepreneurship,” said Prof Sibiyi during training by the Technological Higher Education Network South Africa (THENSA). MUT students have been registered in an online platform that will support their business ideation. The University has also dedicated personnel to support students.



Prof Marcus Ramogale

“It is unfortunate that the THENSA CEO who specifically wanted to facilitate the workshop and had already made headway in this project, Professor Anshu Padayachee, passed away a few weeks after launching the platform with MUT. Her work carries on and I will ensure that the Vice-Chancellor’s vision of making MUT an entrepreneurial university will continue with the establishment of the Entrepreneurship Centre,” said Professor Sibiyi.

MUT INVITED TO FRANCE FOR SA HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH WEEK

A young academic is rapidly carving her career as a global food expert and advocating resilient food systems to address global food and nutrition challenges. She is Dr Xolile Mkhize, senior lecturer at MUT's Community Extension department led by Dr Bonginkosi Mthembu, who is an Ohio University alumnus. Dr Mkhize draws her inspiration from her industry exposure, diverse interdisciplinary projects linked to SDGs 2 and 3, and working with various stakeholders, both locally and internationally.

Dr Mkhize has been invited as a Wageningen University alumna from the Netherlands as part of the FoodWaterEnergy Nexus through the Dutch Embassy – Nuffic Southern Africa. She has participated in a series of events in Southern Africa, including presenting on issues of youth and agriculture in the Netherlands Association of Tanzania.

The multistakeholder engagements in which Dr Mkhize has been involved are an integral part of addressing food security through multi-pronged approaches. These include the recent invitation by Unilever Foods, a multinational trusted over decades, to present on micronutrient deficiency and the role of indigenous crops under the umbrella of the Knorrox Brand's Food Fortification Campaign. "The spinoffs of such mediation between industry and community were phenomenal to synchronise society. It reinforced the role of our research as academics and how it can be used to bridge gaps as many households grapple with food affordability within this current economic climate," said Dr Mkhize.

Dr Mkhize is collaborating with a global consortium, Let's Food, a French Research Group, on a project that aims to promote international cooperation and the exchange of good practices between cities to accelerate the global transition towards sustainable food systems. She recently took part as a local expert in the Durban Food System Sustainability Assessment, as part of an international documentary. The project involves seven cities in France, and seven cities in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin

America. All the participants are signatories of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, part of the international policy framework for Agenda 2030.

This is a huge milestone in terms of MUT's internationalisation agenda, when both private and public partners can identify academic expertise just by looking at the research taking place around the areas of building sustainable food systems to address food security.



Dr Xolile Mkhize



CELEBRATING NELSON MANDELA MONTH

The celebration of Nelson Mandela Month has become more integrated across campus departments, students, and communities near and far. Prof Nokuthula Sibiyi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research, Innovation and Engagements, explains that:

For us, Mandela Month aligns very well with our Strategic Goal 4 of national and international engagements as it gives us a direct imperative to create nation-building and social cohesion programmes. I am deeply heartened about the strategic focus for this year's celebrations. Our theme, 'Climate, Food and Solidarity', touches right into the Sustainable Development Goals, and we are incorporating the South African version of Ubuntu: the solidarity part which our first President in the democratic dispensation, Nelson Mandela espoused.

She added that it would be remiss of her not to acknowledge Prof Busisiwe Nkonki-Mandleni, Director of the Community Engagement and Development Directorate (CEAD) at MUT, for her role in drawing various departments, be they academic or support services, as well as the eThekweni Municipality, to use their time and effort to lead these celebrations. "The planning was pitched at a very high level with some members from executive management making invaluable contributions to the celebrations. I wish to thank all the departments collaborating with CEAD for rising to the occasion by celebrating Nelson Mandela Month as MUT and aligning those to our theme of 'Climate, Food and Solidarity'," she concluded.



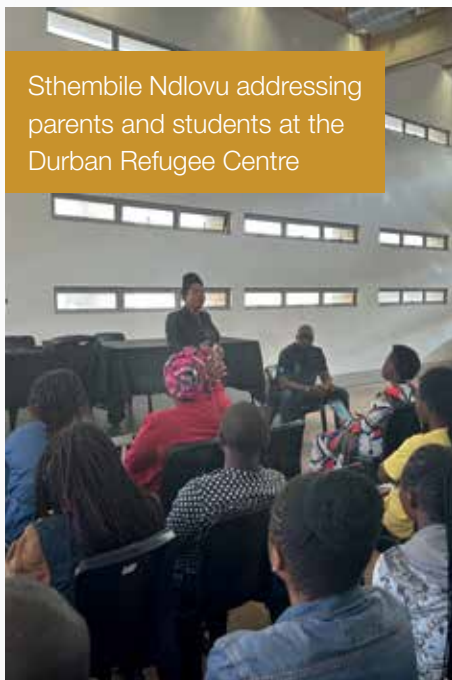
10 YEAR REMEMBRANCE NELSON MANDELA

the legacy lives on through you

MANDELA MONTH CELEBRATIONS



MUT's open day at Ndwedwe



Sthembile Ndlovu addressing parents and students at the Durban Refugee Centre



Dr Paulette Naidoo reaching out at the old age home



MUT students were involved in clean up at Siyabonga Secondary School



The Twelve Apostles Church in Trinity Students Organisation (THE TACTSO) went to clean John Dunn House, Wentworth, Durban

MUT'S CHANGEMAKERS ON THE ROAD TO INTERNATIONALISATION



Professor Marcus Ramogale

PROFESSOR MARCUS RAMOGALE

In every successful organisation, there are individuals who spearhead sustainable change. This section pays tribute to some of those people who are moving the internationalisation agenda forward at MUT. Every year, without fail, they push the frontiers for MUT to be advanced globally. Chief among them is Prof Marcus Ramogale, Acting Vice-Chancellor & Principal.

It is no secret that Prof Ramogale has acted in his position for over five years, albeit intermittently. During these years, he said, “The vision to elevate MUT to compete with the world’s universities [has always been] in my heart. Some of my colleagues always jokingly remind me that this passion of internationalisation emanates from my own personal journey as a PhD student in the UK, at Nottingham University. That is not far from the truth. Indeed, it was a game changer for me, and I vowed that once I am in a position of leading an internationalisation agenda, I would do my best to lead programmes of internationalisation.”

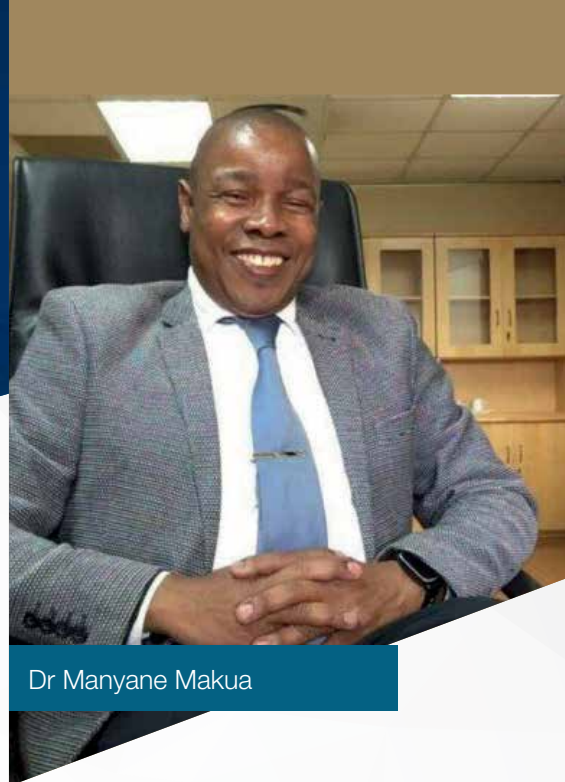
Over the past two years, Prof Ramogale’s internationalisation agenda has skyrocketed, and he

has received great commendations from partners across the USA, Europe, Asia and Africa. “There is no more turning back; we have commenced an ambitious project and the growth is exponential. Now is the time to get to action. I am humbled to see that there is a well-structured approach to tracking what is happening and that systems have been put in place to identify new opportunities and synergies all the time,” he said.

During his recent visit to the USA, he built stronger relations with partners and has hit the ground running by ensuring that each of the projects will be assigned to the appropriate leader. Currently, MUT’s partnerships have moved from two in 2021 to close to 20 in the first quarter of 2023.

What is the secret to this success? For those who have worked with Prof Ramogale for more than a decade, they will agree that it is his attention to detail, supported by the vast experience he brings in higher education leadership. MUT’s partnerships have come about because of his dynamic scrutiny of synergies with MUT and the ethos they hold.





Dr Manyane Makua

ONE-ON-ONE TALK WITH FOCUS CONFERENCE FOUNDER DR 'JOE' MANYANE MAKUA

This is a big year for Dr Manyane Makua, as his brainchild, the Focus Conference, turns 10 years old. He conceptualised the Focus Conference under the tutelage of Prof Marcus Ramogale who was the first deputy Vice-Chancellor to project manage an institutional audit for MUT, back in 2011. Both Prof Ramogale and Dr Makua had just joined MUT when that audit was instituted. “Shortly after the 2011 Institutional Audit Report which lamented MUT’s weaknesses in the scholarship of teaching and learning, I contemplated deeply about how to use all the best human resources we had to make an impact. With the support of Prof Ramogale, I was given wings to fly, and I chose to fly towards the direction of enhancing the scholarship of teaching and learning.

“Having just established the Teaching and Learning Development Centre, I then took it upon myself to implement this big idea. I had to make submissions for a Teaching Development Grant where I was able to make a case to the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) to agree to allow us to fund what started as the Teaching and Learning Colloquium in 2013. The colloquium hit the right notes from the outset as it was embraced by MUT staff. Two years later, the colloquium opened attendance to other universities. The growth of the colloquium necessitated the transition to conference status. In 2022, the conference registered delegates from more than 18 universities, TVET colleges and private higher education institutions,” said Dr Makua.

He is passionate about closing the gap in the scholarship of teaching and learning at MUT. Dr Makua believes that the Focus Conference has created a much-needed space for teaching and learning discourses at MUT and in the higher education sector. Currently, the Focus

Conference is the only conference in the sector that has an attractive appeal for academics in the teaching and learning space.

It has not been an easy road to grow the conference from a colloquium base to conference status. The conference organising team managed this challenge, and of late, embarked on a national road show to popularise the conference.

The conference is pulling in significant third-stream income for the TLDC and the University. To date, the conference has raised more than a million rands in income. In 2022, the conference published its first proceedings through the DHET-accredited Atlantis Press, which is part of Springer Nature.

All the keynote papers from local and international speakers were outstanding. Delegates have also been presenting quality papers over time.

“It would be unjust of me not to acknowledge my hardworking team, for being innovative and keeping abreast of what is happening in the sector, both nationally and internationally. We align our conference themes for those involved in action research to come out with how best we could make a difference in the scholarship of teaching and learning. It has been a meaningful journey for my colleagues, especially during Covid-19 and post-Covid, as they have played a major role in elevating the status of the conference and made great contributions to the scholarship of teaching and learning,” said Dr Makua.

NOTABLE VISITS ACROSS THE GLOBE

DR MAKUA SPEAKS AT UK UNIVERSITIES

The adage, “Show me your friends and I will tell you who you are”, holds true for any sustainable stakeholder relations programme. In this case, the stakeholder is Prof Mark Schofield, Dean of Teaching and Learning Development and Professor of Learning and Teaching at Edge Hill University in the UK.

Prof Schofield has been invited to MUT’s Focus Conference for three consecutive years and has taken the conference to another level. This is all thanks to the stewardship of the Teaching and Learning Development Centre (TLDC), where Dr Makua holds a substantive position as Senior Director: Teaching and Learning. The relationship between Dr Makua and Prof Schofield has resulted in a partnership in which Dr Makua has since been invited to speak annually at the Edge Hill Teaching and Learning Conference in the UK.

In June 2023, Dr Makua presented at the Edge Hill University conference and then went on to speak at Bath University. He was also hosted by London South Bank University which has a partnership with MUT on projects funded by the British Council. The British Council and British Academy have funded the



Dr Makua speaks at UK universities



projects to the tune of R1.208 million. The projects are currently located in the office of the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning.

MUT'S RATED RESEARCHER PARTICIPATES IN A CONFERENCE IN SAUDI ARABIA

One thing that many people may not know about Prof Nokuthula Sibiyi, MUT's Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagements, is that she is a professionally registered nursing sister, having risen through all the nursing ranks as a young nursing graduate many moons ago. The rest is history. That career elevated her from being a lecturer to a head of department, dean, deputy vice-chancellor, into the role that she currently holds in the second level of the MUT administration.

Prof Sibiyi was not only honoured but also felt excited about the contributions which she could make when she was invited to attend the 1st International Nursing Congress – entitled 'Transformative Nursing & Midwifery: Leading Innovation and Advancing Nursing & Midwifery Practice Towards Better Healthcare' – hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Defence Health Services at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Riyadh towards the end of April. The Congress looked closely at key topics such as nursing leadership and management, policy making in healthcare, change management in healthcare, military nursing, and various strategic issues facing the nursing profession.

"The congress had a global face-to-face audience and was also widely viewed on a virtual platform. It heightened awareness and stimulated discussion amongst professionals from different backgrounds and disciplines to examine the essential contribution of nurses towards global transformation in line with the 2030 vision and sustainable developmental goals. As one of the keynote speakers, I shared the platform with many other international healthcare experts in their field. I was also part of a panel discussion that shared experiences and insight on innovative approaches and strategies for the delivery and promotion of healthcare. Notably, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is proud of the ex-patriot nurses it employs and their service delivery," she said.



Prof Nokuthula Sibiyi receiving an award at Saudi Arabia



Prof Sibiyi, with delegates at the Trans-formative Nursing and Midwifery Conference in Saudi Arabia

The conference brought together about 1500 health care providers from all over the world who attended the opening ceremonies, various plenary sessions, main sessions, and workshops. It afforded her the opportunity to network with the conference organisers and delegates, and she managed to find potential examiners for postgraduate theses and potential partners for collaborative projects. A pipeline agreement with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Defence Health Services exists for the training of their healthcare workers in South Africa, including MUT, and Prof Sibiyi currently supervises one Master's student from Saudi Arabia as part of this eminent collaboration.

Based on Professor Sibiyi's research in the nursing field, she has received huge recognition by the sector, and she also sits on some nursing councils and boards. It was therefore, an honour for her to be recognised for all her hard work and investment in the nursing profession.

MUT PARTICIPATION IN THE SOUTH AFRICA CANADA HIGHER EDUCATION & SCIENCE COUNCIL WEEK

Prof Nokuthula Sibiya, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagements represented MUT at the South Africa–Canada Higher Education & Science Council Week, which was from 24 to 28 April 2023 in Toronto, Canada at the request of the Acting Vice-Chancellor & Principal, Prof Marcus Ramogale. The visit was coordinated by the National Research Foundation (NRF) and Universities South Africa (USAf), in collaboration with the Canadian Trade Commission under the auspices of the Canadian High Commissioner.

According to Prof Sibiya, “The aim of the visit was to allow universities from both countries to network and think about collaborative engagements that will promote joint partnerships between the South African and Canadian higher education sectors.” Moving forward, an interim Steering Committee for the formalisation of the SA-Canada University Network (SACUN) has been formed. The SACUN had its first meeting with the SA-Canada Councils Network during the session in Canada.

Prof Sibiya is currently in high level engagements with the Vice-President: Research of the Metropolitan University of Toronto, Dr Steven Liss. They both agree to continue the conversation with the aim of signing a partnership agreement.

Following this meeting in Canada, eight historically disadvantaged institutions (HDIs), including MUT, had a meeting from 13 to 14 July 2023 in Cape Town to find ways in which they could identify strengths and areas of collaboration on common research focus areas. This workshop was hosted by the University of Western Cape.



Professor Nokuthula Sibiya



“Earlier this year when I attended the SASUF Conference in Cape Town, it was made very clear that there is funding available for the HDIs that can partner not only with international universities but also with South African universities. SASUF and EU funding is focusing on HDIs. Similarly, at the SACUN meeting in Toronto, it was highlighted by York University that they want to partner with HDIs. I will be working with some of my colleagues to see how we could pursue these opportunities,” said Sibiya.



DAAD's Dialogue in Educational Strategies (DIES) delegates

DAAD'S DIALOGUE IN EDUCATIONAL STRATEGIES (DIES) PROGRAMME AND THE GERMAN RECTORS' CONFERENCE FUND AN MUT STAFFER

“In life, there are options that we must take and usually, they require huge sacrifices,” said Mballi Mkhize, Senior Director: Marketing and Communications at MUT, who is also tasked with leading MUT's internationalisation strategy. “From February 2022 to June 2023, I took a detour in life to study with passion, what has been my career over the last two decades. That meant postponing lots of things in my life, but I have no regret. The 18-month career detour is what I would encourage everyone to take. It is not every training that leads one to a terminal qualification. Other trainings provide the soul with fulfilment, sustainability and outlook. Having gone through this fellowship, I would say to anyone, ‘Go for such opportunities’. They come in your life unexpectedly and can change your life forever,” said Mkhize. The DAAD-DIES programme provided training and travel to Hannover University, Germany, where all 30 fellows gathered together.

On 30 June 2023, Mkhize received with great pride a certificate with emblems from these organisations that trained her to manage the processes and tasks related to the internationalisation of higher education. “I was trained by the best in the field, and I was trained with the 29 best people from Africa, Latin America, the Middle

East, and South Asia. That is the experience I will carry with me forever. I learned so much about other people's culture and I had to revisit my own culture. Most importantly, this experience will now be cascaded down to my team,” she said.

“I urge everyone to be on the lookout for notices sent out on the University Notice email from various stakeholders. Sometimes we think about the ‘now’ instead of thinking about the future. Some opportunities are once-off opportunities; look at what they bring and defocus from fear. The Lord will not visit you and tell you that this will be better. Trust the opportunity He presents to you,” said Mbali.

MUT is already reaping rewards from this fellowship which has presented new institution-wide collaborations and partnerships. The Empowered Administrators Conference (EAC), taking place in the third week of September, will have participants from some of the DAAD-DIES fellows' office professionals.

In addition, a few other partnership agreements that MUT will be concluding before the end of the year, come from this association. At this moment, Mkhize is thankful at having a visionary leader who saw opportunities in this training for MUT. “There are no words one can say other than extending thanks to the Vice-Chancellor for endorsing this fellowship. What could be better than thanking him loudly from this platform? Ase, Prof Ramogale!

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES



Seated, Prof Marcus Ramogale, left, and Dr Manyane Makua, with the TLDC staff members

10TH FOCUS CONFERENCE: THE PREMIER CONFERENCE IN TEACHING & LEARNING



The TLDC's Conference organising team and Dr Manyane Makua, acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching & Learning have pulled out all stops to make the 10th anniversary of the Focus Conference memorable. "We have lined up a group of speakers who have huge expertise and have made great contributions to the education sector. We have simplified the registration process to allow delegates to secure their spot at the conference with ease. The cherry on top is the interactive programme which will allow attendees to plan their schedule in advance. They can view session timings, topics, and speakers, enabling them to tailor the experience to their specific interests. All registered delegates will be sent instructions on how to start modifying and personalising their conference experience," said Dr Makua.

10TH EMPOWERED ADMINISTRATORS CONFERENCE (EAC)

This year's conference aims to build on the gains made post Covid-19 in the advancement of office administration and management. This year's conference focuses on agility, a term that has become a cornerstone for effectiveness and efficiency in office administration and management. Mbali Mkhize, Senior Director: Marketing and Communications at MUT and founder of the EAC, has attributed the EAC's continued growth to her hardworking staff who are well-read, techno and socially-media savvy, and more than anything else, intelligent. "Those that know the EAC know that Zama, Jade, Jay, Bheki, Nganele, Ayanda, and of course Tracy will be bringing the excitement that the EAC exudes as office professionals take off from the office, leaving line managers fiddling with everything on their own during their two days of absence!"



Department of Marketing and Communications staff

"As we celebrate the 10th anniversary, we bring in new competencies to which office professionals must be exposed. The EAC has enhanced MUT's reputation with the country's universities, state entities like Umngeni Water, Transnet and others, as well as all levels of government who are all loyal EAC delegates. The EAC takes place on 21 and 22 September in Umhlanga. Watch out for the exciting EAC campaigns," said Mkhize.



Turns



Some MUT Radio staff





INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RECRUITMENT



MUT Alumna gives learners reason to believe

ALUMNA GIVES ESWATINI LEARNERS MORE REASON TO BELIEVE

Mangosuthu University of Technology has through the decades of its existence enjoyed a greater enrolment of students from the Kingdom of eSwatini than from any other African country. Many have graduated and moved back to their homeland to plough back the skills learnt at the institution. Great professionals who are today at the helm of the growth of the eSwatini infrastructure, landscape, and economy have emerged from the three MUT faculties.

“Upon settling in back at home, our alumni spread the word about their alma mater to get more locals to register at MUT. Recently, the MUT schools’ liaison team partnered with Minenhle Dlamini, a MUT Marketing graduate from the Class of 2009. She was thrilled to have the opportunity to share her fondest 16-year-old memories with scores of eSwatini learners who attended the career fair on 5 May 2023 at Manzini Club House,” said Zama Sishi, Director of Stakeholder Relations Management in the Marketing and Communications department at MUT.

Dlamini's love for MUT was painted in the way she positioned the institution to prospective students:

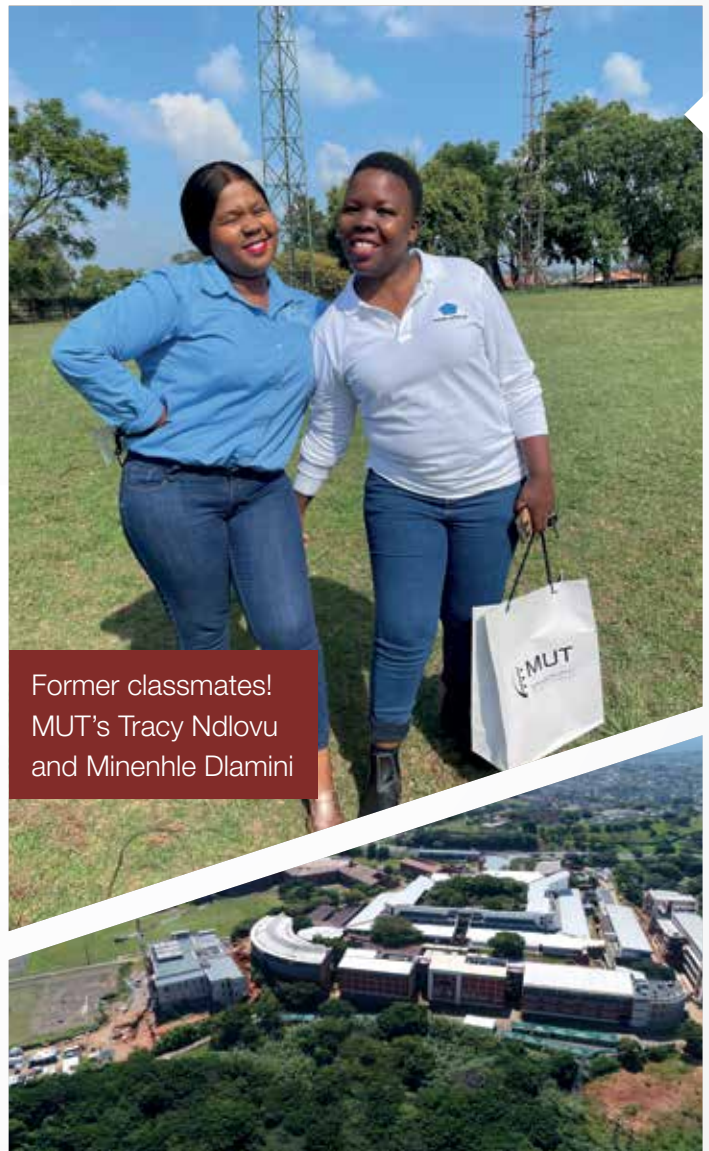
I assure you, I am their product; it is a great place to be. What makes MUT unique is its location in a township – there is a vibe, but you need to balance the excitement and the reason why you are at MUT. MUT is well known as the best engineering tertiary institution in KwaZulu-Natal since our time. You will find good people at MUT, you will be able to make friends within your first day at the institution. Also, there are several students from eSwatini who would be happy to show you around. I can count for you the numerous businesses here at home that are owned and managed by MUT graduates. Some students have decided to settle in South Africa, others have pursued further studies abroad. I am telling you this

so that you get the idea that a MUT qualification opens global doors as well as developing students holistically. I would be wrong not to mention affordability: MUT tuition fees are very competitive, and you find affordable meals 'amagwinya' just outside the campus. Even if you do not have a sponsor, studying at MUT is not a faraway dream. I urge you to take this opportunity to engage with the MUT recruitment team with both hands.

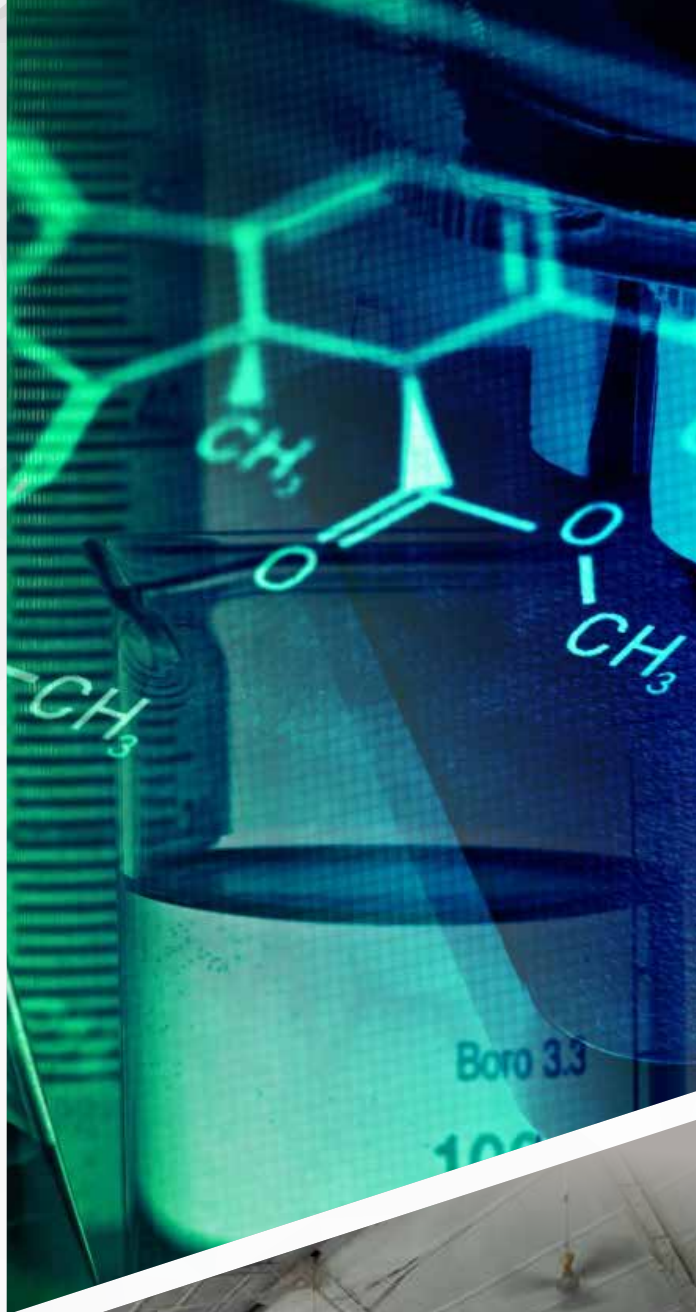
Dlamini gave the students a solid testimony that MUT is a highly regarded institution, thus giving them assurance that taking a leap to cross the border for education has been one of the best decisions she and her parents made. "Although she studied marketing, her connection to MUT shines through in how well she understands the entire MUT programme qualification mix," said Sishi.

BUILDING LIFE-LONG FRIENDSHIPS AT MUT

Hearing it from those who have walked the talk just amplified Minenhle Dlamini's message. She completed high school at Mjingo High School in Manzini eSwatini. On the day of the career expo, learners from Mjingo High School were also among those in attendance. This brought great pleasure to her former teachers who were witnessing the fruits of their labour flourishing from a teenage schoolgirl to an established executive who speaks with authority. Dlamini's address was supported with facts. She mentioned that making friends at MUT was not difficult, and she surprised everyone when she told them that her roommate was Tracy Ndlovu, the Schools Liaison Officer who was part of the MUT student recruitment team. Both Dlamini and Ndlovu studied Marketing at MUT and graduated together in 2009. The institution has built a great network of marketers. The roommates shared the stage with ease, taking burning questions from the eager potential students. Equipped with great marketing skills and a thorough understanding of their beloved alma mater, Dlamini and Ndlovu's friendship is set to bring in more eSwatini students who will become future advocates of the institution.



Former classmates!
MUT's Tracy Ndlovu
and Minenhle Dlamini



ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY: A PROGRAMME OF CHOICE FOR ST THERESA'S GIRLS

Visiting St Theresa's High School on 3 May 2023, an all-girls school in Manzini, eSwatini, was a very pleasant moment for the MUT student recruitment team. The girls, who had assembled in the school hall for an exclusive visit and presentation of the MUT qualifications, seemed to have done a lot of homework on the MUT offerings as they immediately asked pertinent questions relating to applications and enrolment at MUT. The main query was whether they would be able to apply while still awaiting their Form 5 results which will be announced in December 2023. This was a relevant question, considering that MUT applications close on 30 September 2023, with late applications open until November 2023. Sthembile Ndlovu, MUT Schools Liaison Officer, provided full details on the application process, the documents required during the initial application stage, and documentation required for an applicant to be finally considered for an offer to study. The online application process was appreciated as it meant less stress, since the applicant would be able to track the progress of their application from their home country.

The top achieving St Theresa's high school offers an SGCE certificate in the Commerce, Arts, and Sciences streams. The school is well known for achieving a 100% pass and recently won the Black History Month Competition hosted by the United States Embassy. Learners from St Theresa's showed the greatest interest in the Analytical Chemistry programme at MUT. "Can you describe analytical chemistry?" one of the girls asked on behalf of her classmates. After some serious discussion, the girls were satisfied that they were ready to apply for the analytical chemistry diploma at MUT, citing that they met the subject requirements and were confident that they would meet the academic pass requirement, which is a minimum of level 4 for Mathematics, Physical Science and English.



One of eSwatini best schools



ESWATINI EDUCATION MINISTRY REVIVES DISTRICT CAREER FAIRS

A stakeholder stewardship visit to eSwatini, in a quest to reinvigorate the long-standing relationship between MUT and eSwatini Ministry of Education and Training, is showing positive spin-offs. Meetings held on Wednesday, 3 May 2023, unearthed several opportunities for MUT to recruit eSwatini students and sustain relations with alumni in the country. One of the main opportunities was hosting district career exhibitions, a function that has unfortunately fallen by the wayside since the Covid-19 pandemic. This has robbed MUT of three years of connecting with potential students, Life Orientation educators, and principals of schools in eSwatini. “Our meeting with the director of Education, Guidance and Career Services, Lindiwe Dlamini, and her teams was an effort to rekindle the relationship so that MUT continues to enjoy support from the Ministry. We are mindful that higher education institutions are experiencing a decline in international student numbers; we discussed the challenges and agreed on a way forward that benefits both MUT and the Ministry,” said Zama Sishi, Director of Stakeholder Relations Management at MUT.

Since the meeting, the Ministry has put plans in place and worked on a budget to host MUT and other South African institutions for career exhibition programmes. An invitation was recently received to the kingdom’s first career fair in three years, organised by the Ministry’s Guidance and Career Services office. In the invitation to the schools’ liaison team, Dlamini wrote: “Thank you for the great interest in partnering with the department in the hosting of Careers Fairs. We are excited to invite your institution to a Career Fair to be held on the 9th of August 2023 targeting learners from schools in Mbabane and surrounding areas. This event will be a good build-up to the collaboration in the Career Expo 2024 that will be held in all four regions of the country.”

It is through such efforts that MUT can operationalise the institution’s internationalisation strategy and put in the work towards increasing the international visibility of MUT. The best practice is internationalisation at home as a starting point for the MUT internationalisation agenda.



One of Eswatini schools visited by
MUT's school staff



Mayor Vusi Tembe, with MUT's Tracy Ndlovu



Ayanda Bulose making presentation at one of the
eSwatini school

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AFRICA MONTH



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WE WANT:**

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DISEASES, DISCRIMINATION,
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AFRICA - OPPORTUNITIES IN
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